SYLVANIA PENG

BENNY BUILDS A BETTER HOME

LEARNING HOW TO HELP NATURE

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:
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BENNY THE BEAVER

BENNY IS A CREATIVE BEAVER WHO ENJOYS BUILDING DAMS. WHILE HIS PROJECTS DON'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED, HE'S ALWAYS WILLING TO LEARN AND FIND BETTER WAYS TO HELP HIS FRIENDS AND NATURE.

FREDDY THE FROG

FREDDY IS CALM, PATIENT, AND LOVES HIS PEACEFUL POND LIFE. HE'S A GREAT LISTENER AND VALUES BALANCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT, ALWAYS NOTICING WHEN SOMETHING FEELS OFF AT HOME.

PENNY THE SQUIRREL

PENNY IS FULL OF ENERGY AND ALWAYS ON THE MOVE. SHE LOVES COLLECTING NUTS AND EXPLORING THE TREETOPS, BUT SHE'S ALSO A GREAT FRIEND WHO ENJOYS HELPING OTHERS WHENEVER SHE CAN.

OLIVE THE OWL

OLIVE IS WISE AND THOUGHTFUL. SHE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME WATCHING THE FOREST AND LEARNING HOW EVERYTHING WORKS TOGETHER. SHE IS A TRUSTED FRIEND WHO EVERYONE LISTENS TO WHEN THEY NEED ADVICE.

BRUNO THE BEAR

BRUNO IS BIG AND STRONG, BUT HE'S ALSO GENTLE AND FRIENDLY. HE LOVES HELPING HIS FRIENDS AND IS ALWAYS THERE WHEN SOMEONE NEEDS AN EXTRA PAW. BRUNO ENJOYS TAKING SLOW WALKS THROUGH THE FOREST, APPRECIATING THE BEAUTY AROUND HIM.

CARLA THE CATERPILLAR

CARLA IS SMALL BUT FULL OF CURIOSITY AND WONDER. SHE IS THOUGHTFUL AND HAS BIG DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE, EVEN THOUGH SHE KNOWS IT WILL TAKE TIME TO GROW INTO HER FULL POTENTIAL.

GARY THE GRASSHOPPER

GARY IS CHEERFUL, LIVELY, AND FULL OF ENERGY. HE LOVES HOPPING AROUND THE FOREST AND MAKING MUSIC WITH HIS LEGS.

BELLA THE BUNNY

BELLA IS SWEET, CARING, AND THOUGHTFUL. SHE LOVES SOFT, COZY SPACES AND ENJOYS HOPPING THROUGH MEADOWS, FINDING HIDDEN SPOTS TO RELAX AND PLAY.

IN A BIG GREEN FOREST, BENNY THE BEAVER WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS AMAZING DAMS. HIS WOODEN DAMS WERE THE BEST AROUND.

THE ANIMALS CHEERED, BUT SOME LOOKED WORRIED. THE RIVER WAS MOVING SLOWLY, AND THE FIELDS DOWNSTREAM WERE DRYING UP. THE BIRDS CHIRPED SADLY, FROGS CROAKED ABOUT DRY PONDS, AND DEER WHISPERED ABOUT FINDING WATER.

YOUR DAM IS STOPPING THE WATER FROM REACHING MY POND! IT'S DRYING UP, AND I NEED IT TO STAY WET.
OH NO..I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT.

WHAT IF YOU BUILT IT A DIFFERENT WAY? THERE ARE WAYS TO BUILD THAT HELP NATURE.
REALLY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
START BY LETTING SOME WATER GO AROUND YOUR DAM. THAT WAY, FREDDY'S POND WON'T DRY UP.
LET'S TRY IT!

THE NEXT MORNING, BENNY MADE A SMALL PATH FOR WATER TO FLOW AROUND THE DAM. FREDDY'S POND BEGAN TO FILL UP AGAIN.

BENNY, YOUR DAM FLOODED MY NUT STASH! I HAD TO MOVE EVERYTHING TO HIGHER GROUND.
I'M SORRY...I DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE PROBLEMS. BUT WHAT CAN I DO? I LOVE BUILDING!
HOW ABOUT ASKING OLIVE AGAIN? SHE ALWAYS KNOWS A SOLUTION.

NEXT... IF YOU MAKE SMALLER DAMS INSTEAD OF ONE BIG ONE, THE RIVER CAN FLOW BETTER.
WHAT ABOUT MY SLEEPING LODGE?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY MAKING IT SMALLER?

BENNY BROKE HIS BIG DAM INTO SMALLER ONES. THE WATER STARTED MOVING AGAIN, AND THE MUD ALONG THE RIVER DISAPPEARED.

BENNY, LET'S PLANT FLOWERS ON THE DAMS! BEES AND BUTTERFLIES WILL LOVE IT.
GREAT IDEA!
TOGETHER, THEY PLANTED COLORFUL FLOWERS.

THIS IS FUN! WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO HELP EVERYONE?
BENNY, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE SOME SHADY SPOTS NEAR THE RIVER? IT WILL KEEP THE WATER COOLER AND GIVE ANIMALS A PLACE TO REST.

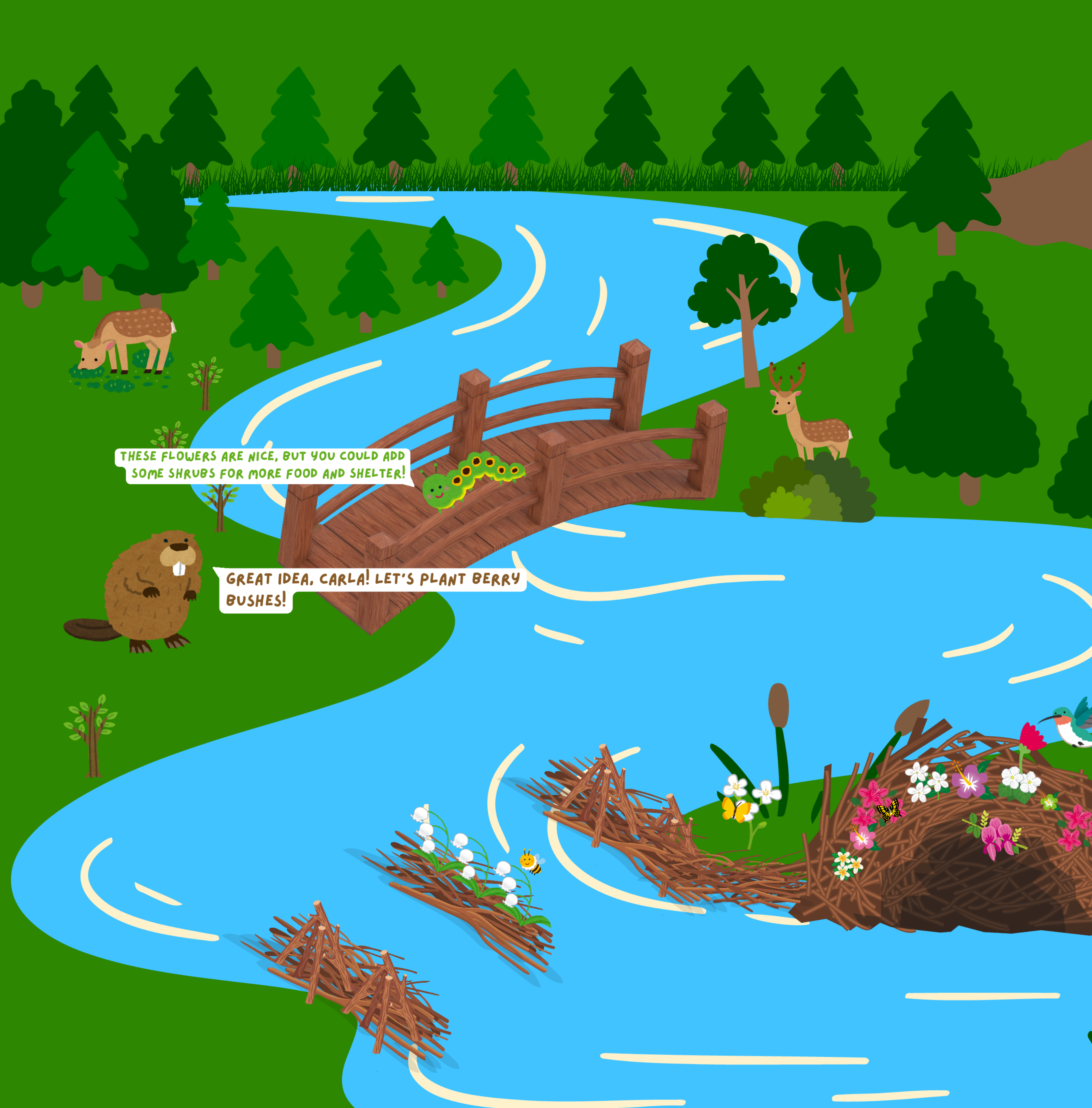
SHADY SPOTS? HOW DO I DO THAT?
YOU CAN PLANT TREES ALONG THE RIVERBANK.

BENNY AND THE ANIMALS WORKED TOGETHER, PLANTING SMALL SAPLINGS ALONG THE RIVER.

HELLO BENNY! I HEARD ABOUT YOUR PLANS TO IMPROVE OUR HOME IN NATURE.
HI BRUNO! YES... I WANT TO HELP OUT OUR FRIENDS.
CAN I JOIN YOU?
REALLY?
WAIT RIGHT HERE, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

BRUNO THE BEAR RETURNED WITH LOGS.
WE SHOULD BUILD A BRIDGE SO ANIMALS CAN CROSS THE RIVER.
WOW! LET'S DO IT!

TOGETHER, THEY BUILT A STRONG WOODEN BRIDGE. THE DEER WERE HAPPY TO USE IT.

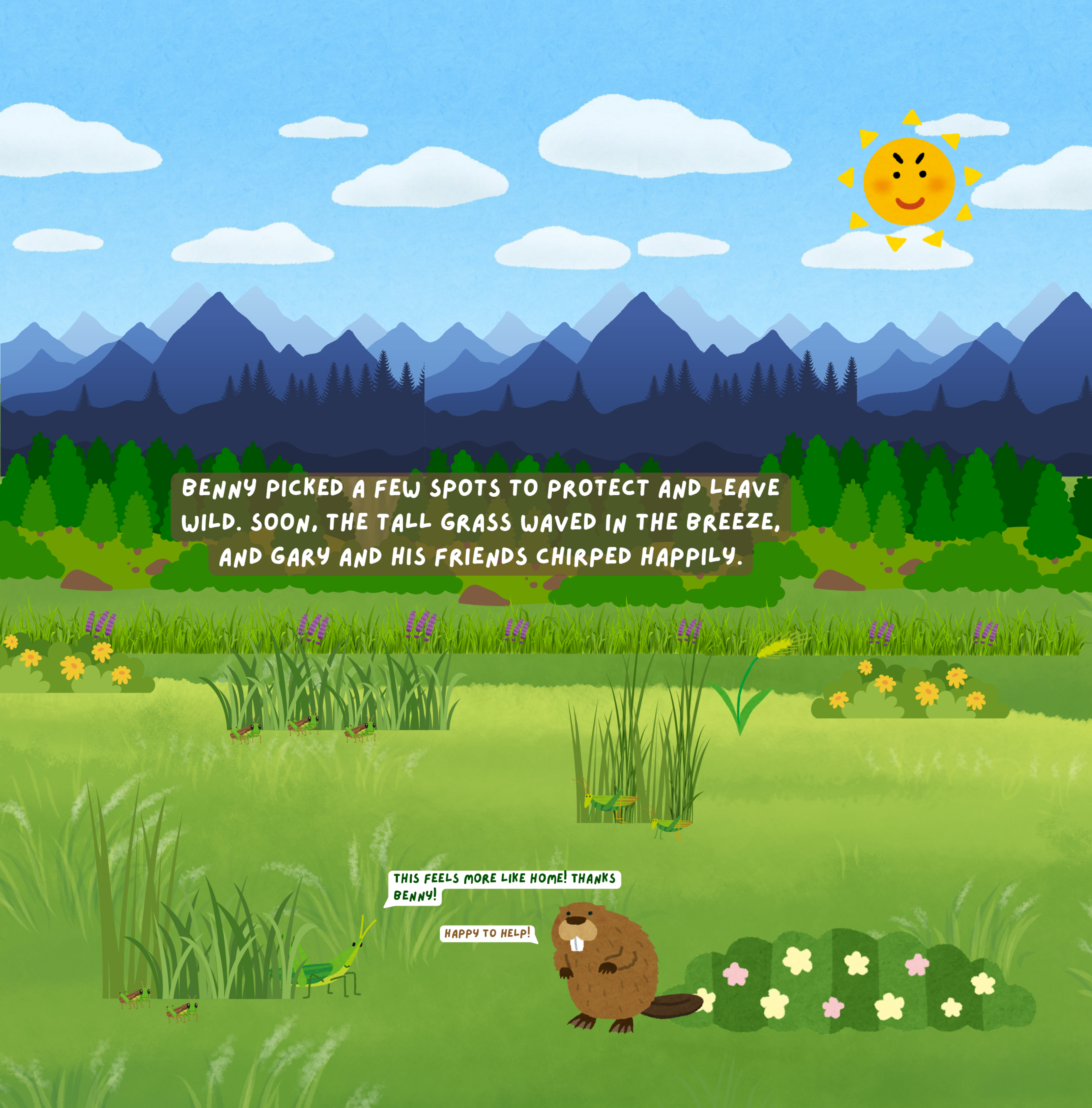

THESE FLOWERS ARE NICE, BUT YOU COULD ADD SOME SHRUBS FOR MORE FOOD AND SHELTER!
GREAT IDEA, CARLA! LET'S PLANT BERRY BUSHES!

THE ANIMALS DUG HOLES AND PLANTED BUSHES FULL OF BERRIES. SOON, BIRDS, BEES, AND SMALL ANIMALS CAME TO ENJOY THE FEAST.

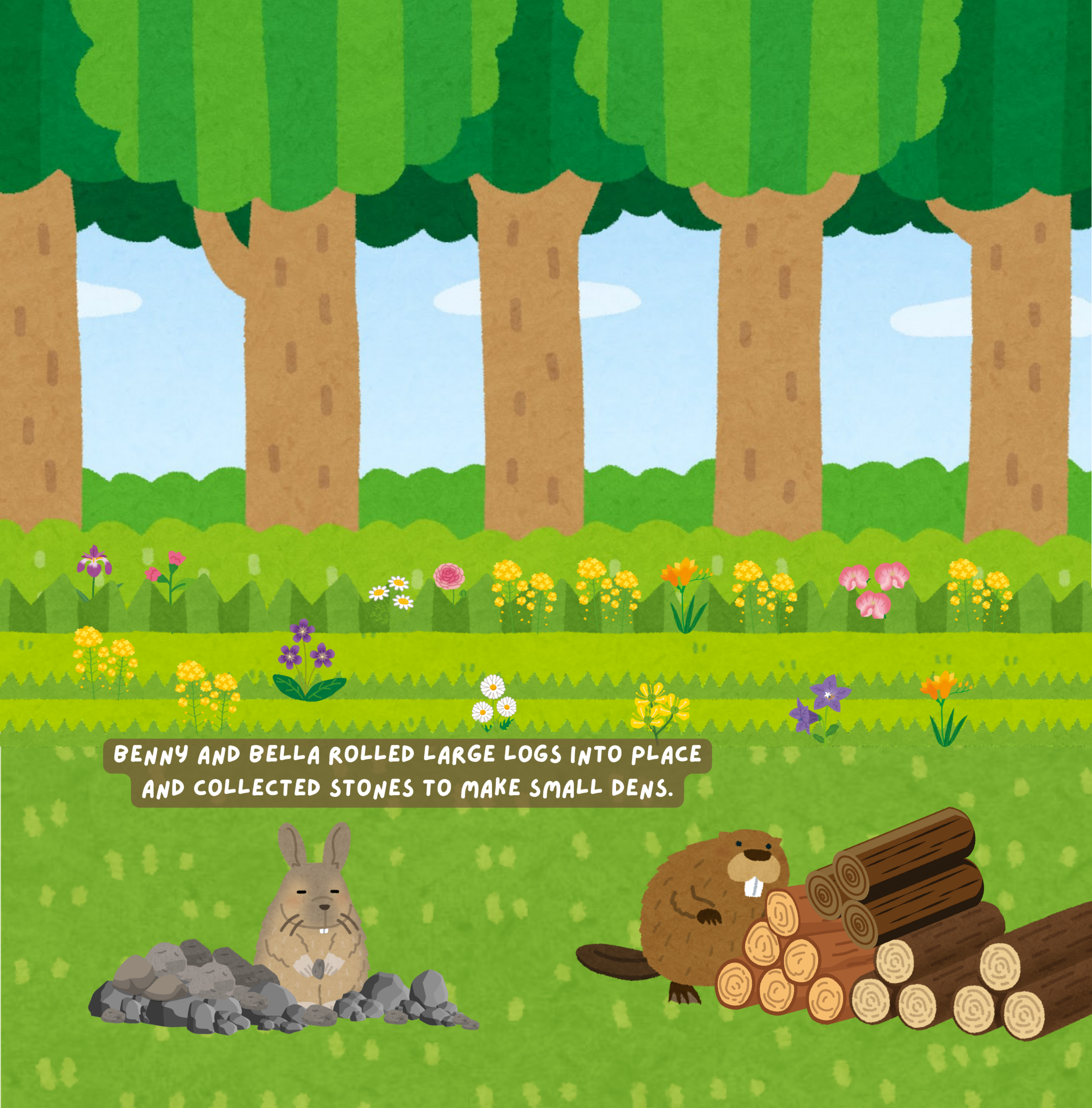
THE NEXT DAY... GARY THE GRASSHOPPER HOPPED BY
LONG TIME NO SEE!
HI BENNY! I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN REBUILDING HOMES.
YES! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
THE DEER KEEP EATING ALL THE GRASS.

OH NO... I'LL MAKE SURE TO TELL THEM.
DID YOU KNOW TALL GRASS HELPS KEEP THE SOIL HEALTHY?
TALL GRASS?
YES! IF YOU LEAVE SOME AREAS WILD, THE GRASS WILL HOLD THE SOIL TOGETHER, STOP EROSION, AND GIVE MY FRIENDS A HOME

BENNY PICKED A FEW SPOTS TO PROTECT AND LEAVE WILD. SOON, THE TALL GRASS WAVED IN THE BREEZE, AND GARY AND HIS FRIENDS CHIRPED HAPPILY.



HEY, BENNY! WHAT ABOUT SOME COZY SPOTS FOR ANIMALS WHO DON'T LIVE IN THE WATER OR TREES?
HELLO BELLA! WHAT KIND OF SPOTS?
LET'S MAKE SOME LITTLE ROCK AND LOG DENS FOR SHELTER.


BENNY AND BELLA ROLLED LARGE LOGS INTO PLACE AND COLLECTED STONES TO MAKE SMALL DENS.

RABBITS, SNAILS, AND HEDGEHOGS PEEKED OUT HAPPILY FROM THEIR NEW HOMES.
WE LOVE IT! WHAT A SUCCESS!
HOORAY!

THE ANIMALS GATHERED TO THANK BENNY FOR HIS EFFORTS, WHICH BROUGHT SHADY TREES, BERRY BUSHES, TALL GRASS, AND COZY DENS. THE RIVER SPARKLED, THE FLOWERS BLOOMED, AND THE ANIMALS HAD EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED.

THAT NIGHT, THE ANIMALS CELEBRATED UNDER THE STARS, LISTENING TO THE SOUND OF FIRE. BENNY LOOKED AROUND AT HIS HAPPY FRIENDS AND SAID...

FUN FACTS ABOUT ECO-FRIENDLY DESIGN

1. FLOWERS: PLANTING WILDFLOWERS HELPS BEES AND BUTTERFLIES THRIVE WHILE MAKING THE FOREST COLORFUL AND LIVELY.

2. TREE PLANTING: ADDING TREES NEAR RIVERS KEEPS THE WATER COOL, HELPS PREVENT FLOODING, AND GIVES HOMES TO BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS.

3. BRIDGES FOR WILDLIFE: STRONG WOODEN BRIDGES HELP ANIMALS CROSS RIVERS OR ROADS SAFELY WITHOUT GETTING WET OR HURT.

4. BERRY BUSHES: SHRUBS WITH BERRIES NOT ONLY FEED ANIMALS BUT ALSO PROVIDE SAFE HIDING SPOTS FOR SMALL CREATURES.

5. TALL GRASS: KEEPS SOIL HEALTHY, PREVENTS EROSION, AND GIVES HOMES TO INSECTS LIKE GRASSHOPPERS.

6. ANIMAL SHELTERS: STACKING LOGS AND ROCKS CREATES COZY HOMES FOR GROUND ANIMALS LIKE RABBITS, SNAILS, AND HEDGEHOGS.

MEET THE AUTHOR:

ABOUT SYLVANIA PENG

SYLVANIA IS A JUNIOR AT THE PEDDIE SCHOOL IN HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY, WHERE SHE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT URBAN PLANNING AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY. SHE FOUNDED THE ARCHITECTURE CLUB TO EXPLORE HER PASSION FOR DESIGN AND COLLABORATE ON PROJECTS FOCUSED ON SHAPING A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, SHE VOLUNTEERS TO TEACH ART TO CHILDREN IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, SHARING HER LOVE FOR CREATIVITY AND HELPING OTHERS DISCOVER THEIR ARTISTIC POTENTIAL. IN HER FREE TIME, SHE ENJOYS PAINTING AND READING. SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PEDDIE ROWING TEAM, WHERE SHE HAS LEARNED THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK AND PERSEVERANCE.